

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 153310

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ESTC, RO

SUBJECT: EXPORT CONTROL: PROPOSED ENHANCEMENT OF
INTERIOR MINISTRY COMPUTER

REF: 77 BUCHAREST 2388, 77 STATE 37357

1. DEPARTMENT IS CURRENTLY REVIEWING TWO EXPORT CONTROL
CASES INVOLVING ENHANCEMENTS OF THE IBM 360/40 COMPUTER
AT THE ROMANIAN MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR. SINCE
ENHANCEMENT OF THE MINISTRY'S POLICE FUNCTION RAISES
QUESTIONS OF POTENTIAL HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN
CONNECTION WITH THE USE OF THE COMPUTER, DEPARTMENT
WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING FURTHER
INFORMATION, IF POSSIBLE, REGARDING SPECIFIC END-USE
OF THE ENHANCED SYSTEM.

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2. THE FIRST CASE (CCL 1568) INVOLVES RELOCATION OF
A TYPE 1603 MICROFILM PRINTER, CURRENTLY BEING USED
WITH AN IBM 360/40 COMPUTER AT THE ACADEMIA STEFAN
GHEORGHIU, WHICH THE GOR PROPOSES TO TRANSFER TO THE
MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS FOR ON-LINE USE WITH THE
MINISTRY'S 360/40. EXPORT OF THE MINISTRY'S 360/40 HAD
BEEN APPROVED IN 1972 FOR "CRIME CONTROL" PURPOSES.

3. THE SECOND CASE (CCL 1565 A) INVOLVES ENHANCEMENT OF THE INTERIOR MINISTRY'S 360/40 COMPUTER WITH AN RC-3600 DUAL PROCESSOR SYSTEM, WITH THE STATED END-USE OF POPULATION REGISTRATION AND CENSUS DATA PROCESSING AT THE MINISTRY'S OFFICE OF CENTRAL REGISTRATION.

4. ALTHOUGH THESE LIMITED ENHANCEMENTS OF THE MINISTRY'S 360/40 POSE NO PROBLEM FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND REPRESENTS ONLY MARGINAL IMPROVEMENT OF THE MINISTRY'S POPULATION CONTROL CAPABILITY, THE DEPARTMENT REMAINS CONCERNED THAT, GIVEN THE RECORD OF THE ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT AND ABSENT A CLEARER INDICATION BY THE GOR OF THE INTENDED PURPOSE OF THE ENHANCED SYSTEM, EXPLOITATION OF THIS SYSTEM FOR SUPPRESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS CAN NOT BE REASONABLY EXCLUDED. WE NOTE FROM REFTEL THAT ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT WAS NOT PREPARED LAST YEAR TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC END-USE OF MINISTRY OF INTERIOR COMPUTER ENHANCEMENTS. NEVERTHELESS, UNLESS EMBASSY PERCEIVES OBJECTION, EMBASSY SHOULD APPROACH GOR AND EXPLAIN THAT FURTHER CLARIFICATION OF INTENDED USE IN ABOVE CASES WILL ASSIST USG IN MAKING FINAL DETERMINATION. (DEPARTMENT IS POUCHING RELEVANT EXPORT COUNTRY DOCUMENTS TO EMBASSY FOR SANDERS.) CHRISTOPHER

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